



Parents Newsletter September 2017

Welcome back. Staff and I have been preparing and training during the last three days and it is very exciting to welcome pupils in this morning to their new class groups and a fresh new year. I am delighted to say a special hello to Arihant, Alicia, Lily, Liam, Flynn, Henry, Owen, Jacob, Jennifer, Annabel, Florence, Harvey, George, Joshua and Callum. I hope you all had an enjoyable first day.

Staff news

We have a number of expectant mums this term and so please let us know if your child has been in touch with any childhood illnesses such as chicken pox. You do not have to keep your child away from school if they are unaffected but it will help us to keep our mums especially safe if we know. Thank you.

Allergy risk (nuts)

We have a new member of our school community with a severe anaphylaxis nut allergy. Therefore please do not include nut items in any packed lunches or snacks you may send in. Thank you in anticipation.

Specialist Timetables

Your child's class teacher will provide you with a copy of their timetable arrangements and class teachers are your first and best immediate contact for any questions you may have. Children with sessions for the specialist 'Teacch' rooms will start in full on Monday and hydrotherapy will start on Thursday. This will allow us to complete risk assessments and ensure we have all the right support in place for our new groupings. During our health training this week we have been advised that we should call for emergency support for any child who has a seizure whilst in the pool. This is because of the potential risk of 'dry drowning' when water can become inhaled into the lungs. This is very rare and should not alarm parents of pupils with epilepsy. However, I am advised it is sensible to arrange a health review on any such occasion and so we will be adding that to our regular procedures. Parents will always be informed.

A parent tells me.....

That there are a number of financial avenues for support that may not be known to you, especially if your family is on low income. They include 'BT basic' (lower rate for phones) a carers grant (once per year grant) if you receive carers allowance and 'water sure': a means tested Cambridge water charity. I can't offer any further guidance or information about these but they have been helpful to one of our families.

Eddie's

Eddie's is a charity and have a fully accessible holiday home available for hire in Heacham (sleeps 6) and Val in the office has further details she can send on request (01223 896890)

Class names and transport lists

In Primary all our class names are animals and stay the same each year. In Key Stage 3 and 4 student council chooses the names and they change each year. This is why our secondary class groups are called by gem stones this year. I think students made a really good decision this year😊. Thank you student council.

In a similar way we often change our pupil names for transport vehicles. It makes it easier for them to remember their own vehicle and who they are sharing with. This year we are using an 'insects' theme.

As ever, if you have any questions or comments about the education your child receives at Granta please do be in touch; in the first instance with your class teacher via the diary as they will hold the most detailed information about your child's daily arrangements. Alternatively, or for other enquiries, the office number is 01223 896 890 or email office@granta.cambs.sch.uk. I will always respond swiftly to messages left for me directly but am occasionally off site or unavailable. However, my deputy or I aim to respond within 24 hours to any such message.

Kind regards

Lucie Calow